

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 034082

EXDIS ; MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG, PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES: DISCUSSION
WITH SOVIET REPS

REF: GENEVA 855

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. FOLLOWING UP ON YOUR FEBRUARY 5-6 DISCUSSION ON NOTIFI-
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CATION OF MANEUVERS, YOU SHOULD INFORM SOVIETS THAT WE

BELIEVE THE "POLITICAL" APPROACH TO CBMS (PARA 3 REFTTEL) IS LIKELY TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO OUR ALLIES. SPECIFICALLY, PROPOSALS TO THE EFFECT THAT 1) PARTICIPANTS MIGHT NOTIFY ONLY SOME OTHER STATES, E.G., NEIGHBORS AND 2) THAT ENTIRE MATTER COULD BE LEFT TO DISCRETION OF NOTIFYING STATE WOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS SATISFACTORY BY MOST ALLIES OR BY MAJORITY OF NEUTRAL CSCE PARTICIPANTS. AT SAME TIME, YOU MAY REITERATE THAT ALLIES ALREADY HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE ON MANEUVERS TEXT. HOWEVER, SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF OBJECTIVE PARAMETERS AS WELL AS IDEA THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WOULD RECEIVE NOTIFICATION SEEMS A MINIMUM BASIS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST ON NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS.

2. ON MOVEMENTS, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR REWORDING OF THEIR TEXT STILL SEEMS TO CARRY FOLLOW-UP

IMPLICATIONS AND THUS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO ALLIES IN VIEW OF WELL KNOWN WESTERN POSITION ON FOLLOW-UP (DANISH-EC NINE TEXT).

3. BEGIN FYI. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN ENCOURAGING SOVIETS TO BELIEVE ALLIES MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DROP THEIR GOAL OF ACHIEVING CLEAR PARAMETERS OR THAT WE COULD INTERCEDE TO THIS END, EVEN THOUGH CANADIAN AND DUTCH PROPOSALS RECENTLY DISCUSSED AMONG ALLIES COULD RESULT IN EVENTUAL ALLIED CONSENSUS FOR SHARPLY REDUCED NUMERICAL CRITERIA FOR NOTIFYING MANEUVERS. WE PLACE MORE IMPORTANCE ON CREATING A DEFINABLE OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THAN ON ANY SPECIFIC SET OF PARAMETERS. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET POSITION ON MOVEMENTS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONTINUING TO OPPOSE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ADDRESSING MOVEMENTS IN SOME FASHION AFTER CONCLUSION OF CSCE RUNS THE RISK THAT WE MAY BE ISOLATED IF ALLIES SHOULD DECIDE TO ACCEPT SOVIET PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OUR PAST POSITION ON MOVEMENTS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR US TO JOIN IN FAVORING THE SOVIET APPROACH ONLY RPT ONLY AFTER IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS WILL PERSIST IN IT, A CLEAR ALLIED CONSENSUS HAS EMERGED IN FAVOR OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, AND ALLIES PRESS US TO JOIN SUCH A CONSENSUS. MEANWHILE, A NEGATIVE US ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIET

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APPROACH MIGHT INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOVIETS AND ALLIES ON OTHER WAYS OF HANDLING MOVEMENTS PROBLEM. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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